

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OBJECT REPORT

On 24 April 1949, at 3 miles north of Arrey, New Mexico, 4 Navy enlisted men from White Sands Proving Ground (Chief Akers, Davidson, Fitzsimmons and Moerman) and I saw a rapidly moving object while making a pibal wind run. We released a 350 gram balloon at about 1020 MST and were following it with a standard ML-47 David White Theodolite. After the 1030 reading, Davidson took over the theodolite, and Akers and I looked up to find the balloon with naked eye. We thought we had the balloon when we picked up a whitish spherical object right along the direction the theodolite (45° elevation and 210° azimuth) was pointing. The object was drifting east rapidly (5°/sec. as estimated by stopwatch and width of fingers) but we had thought to encounter similar winds on the balloon. When the difference in angle between the theodolite and supposed balloon became apparent, I took over the theodolite and found the true balloon still there, whereupon I abandoned it and picked up the object after it came out of the sun (This gives another good bearing and if you wish to work out a sun shot at 1033 MST at Arrey). The object was moving too fast to crank the theodolite around, therefore one of the men pointed the theodolite and I looked.

The object was an ellipsoid about $2\frac{1}{2} : 1$ slenderness ratio, length about .02 subtended angle. White in color, except for a light yellow of one side as though it were in shadow. I could not get a hard focus on the object due to the speed at which the angles changed. Therefore I saw no good detail at all.

The Azimuth angle continued to decrease as the object continued on a north heading, growing smaller in size. At around 20° - 25° Azimuth, the Azimuth held constant and the elevation angle began increasing from the 25° minimum to about 29°. The object then apparently disappeared due to distance after a total time of observation of about 60 seconds.

The object was not a balloon and was some distance away. Assuming escape velocity, a track is enclosed which figures elevation above the station of about 300,000 feet over the observed period. If this is true, the flight would have probably gone over the White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman Air Force Base and Los Alamos.

We made another pibal wind run 15 minutes later. This balloon burst after an 88 minute flight of 93,000 feet only 13 miles due south of us. Therefore this object could not have been a free balloon moving at such angular speed below 90,000 feet.

NOTE:

No clouds in sky, no haze.
No noise. Very quiet in area.
No cars, planes or other engines running.
No trail.
No odor.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Minneapolis 13, Minn.
Geneva 0371 X 385

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND
Las Cruces, New Mexico

27 April 1949

STATEMENT

On 24 April 1949, three miles north of Arroyo, New Mexico, four Navy enlisted men from White Sands Proving Ground [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I saw a rapidly moving object while making a pilot wind run. We released a 330 gram balloon at about 1000 HRT and were following it with a standard M-47 David White theodolite. After the 1050 reading, [REDACTED] took over the theodolite and [REDACTED] and I looked up to find the balloon with naked eye. We thought we had the balloon when we picked up a whitish spherical object right along the direction the theodolite was pointing (45° elevation and 210° azimuth). The object was drifting east rapidly (5° second as estimated by stopwatch and width of fingers), but we had thought to encounter similar winds on the balloon. When the difference in direction between the theodolite and supposed balloon became apparent, I took over the theodolite and found the true balloon still there, whereupon I abandoned it and picked up the object after it came out of the sun (this gives another good bearing if you wish to work out a sun shot at 1055 HRT at Arroyo). The object was moving too fast to crank the theodolite around; therefore, one of the men pointed the theodolite and I looked. The object was an ellipsoid about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times near ratio, and the length was about $.02^\circ$ subtended angle. It was white in color except for a light yellow of one side as though it was in shadow. I could not get a hard focus on the object due to the speed at which the angles changed. Therefore, I saw no good detail at all.

The azimuth angle continued to decrease as the object continued on a north heading, growing smaller in size. At around 20° - 25° azimuth the azimuth held constant and the elevation angle began decreasing from the 25° minimum to

[REDACTED]

Incl. #1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

about 20°. The object then apparently disappeared due to distance after a total time of observation of about 60 seconds.

The object was not a balloon and was some distance away. Assuming escape velocity, a track is enclosed which figures elevation above the station of about 908,000 feet over the observed period. If this is true, the flight would have probably gone over the White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman Air Force Base, and Las Alamos.

Another balloon released from that site 15 minutes later went to 93,000 feet and ended up only 13 miles south of us when it burst at that altitude after an 88 minute flight. Therefore, the object was not a free balloon under 93,000 feet.

/s/

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Avenue
Minneapolis 13, Minnesota
Tel: Geneva 0371 - Ext 385